

CEGSA NEWS



Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.

Volume 65 Number 1

Issue 257

FEBRUARY 2020



ISSN 2209-1785

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

PO Box 144, Rundle Mall, South Australia, 5000.

<http://www.cegsa.org.au>

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, at 7.30 PM usually in the Royal Society of South Australia meeting room, Natural Science Building, South Australian Museum.

2020 Committee

President	Ian Lewis	(W) 8463 7649 (M) 0427 284 051 (E) Ian.Lewis2@sa.gov.au
Secretary	Matt Smith	(M) 0419 830 575 (E) matt@speleorovers.org
Treasurer		
Committee	Mark Sefton	(H) 8277 9086 (E) seftons@adam.com.au
Committee	Pam Payne	(H) 8280 7958 (M) 0427 103 617 (E) pam.payne@bigpond.com
Committee	Heather Siebert	
Committee	Neville Skinner	(H) 8296 4142 (M) 0411 295 766 (W) 8186-9256 (E) 23nesk01@adam.com.au

Other Office Bearers

Public Officer / Library & Records/ OzKarst admin / Membership.	Graham Pilkington	(M) 0473 254 956 (E) p-c-h@bigpond.net.au
Publications	Athol Jackson	(H) 8337 8759 (E) atholjax@adam.com.au
Webmaster	Matt Smith	As Above
Quartermaster / Key & GPS	Neville Skinner	(H) 8296 4142 (M) 0411 295 766
Search & Rescue Co-ordinator	Harry Harris	(H) 8431 5395 (M) 0417 177 83 (E) drharry@me.com
Safety Officer	Matt Smith	As Above
Science Officer	Ian Lewis	(W) 8463 7649 (M) 0427 284 051 (E) Ian.Lewis2@sa.gov.au
Training	Matt Smith	As Above
New Member Liaison	Pam Payne	As above
Website Trip Log	All Trip Coordinators	See list p8

Area Coordinators

Eyre Peninsula, Murray Mallee, Gawler Ranges, Torrens, NE of SA, Pitjandjara lands, NW of SA	Records Officer	As Above
Upper & Lower S E(dry), Glenelg River	Kevin Mott	(H) 8723 1461 (M) 0447 792 601 (E) jkmott@internode.on.net
Lower South East (wet), Narinna (wet)	Peter Horne	(H) 8295 6031 (E) ppuddles@yahoo.com.au
Adelaide & Kangaroo Is.	Grant Gartrell	(H) 8556 9100 (W) 8556 9100 (E) farm@blueberrypatch.com.au
Nullarbor Plain (SA & WA), Yorke Peninsula	Graham Pilkington	As Above
Flinders	Stan Flavel	(M) 0407 600 358 (E) tadarida7@gmail.com

Representatives

ASF	Graham Pilkington	As Above
SA Speleological Council	Mark Sefton	As Above
Kanawinka Geotrails Liaison	Ian Lewis	As Above
CDAALiaison	Ian Lewis	As Above
SA Scout Liaison	Matt Smith	As Above

Cover Photograph: Kangaroo Island Fires satellite photo.

CONTENTS**Volume 65 Number 1****Issue 257****FEBRUARY 2020****CONTENTS**

	AUTHOR	PAGE
Committee and Office Bearers		1
Contents		2
Presidents Spot	Ian Lewis	3
2019 Awards	Ian Lewis	3

TRIP REPORTS

Corr Lynn Cave 28/5, 20/8, 28/8 2019	Graham Pilkington	4
Nullarbor 1 – 18 November 2019	Graham Pilkington	4
Corra Lynn Cave 11 January 2020	Graham Pilkington	5
Past Trips (from November General Meeting)		6
Past Trips (from January General Meeting)		6

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

Membership Fees	Graham Pilkington	7
Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders	Committee	8
Annual General Meeting Report	Athol Jackson	8
Extracted Items of South Australian Interest - ASF Annual Report 2019		8
The Australian Cave Cricket Poem	Sil Iannello	10
Couple Devastated at Loss of Wildlife	Sunday Mail SA	10
Man Dies after Falling into Cave Gardens Sinkhole (Mt. Gambier)	ABC South East SA	12
Scientists share their story of discovering huge megafauna fossil deposit. Sunday Mail SA		13
K I Fires at Kelly Hill Caves	Grant Gartrell	16
ACKMA Conference		19
Notice of Motion	Mark Sefton	20
Calendar of Events	Committee	21

QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

High usage equipment will now be stored at the quartermaster's residence. Please make arrangements with the QM well in advance of required date for equipment. The QM can be contacted at the telephone numbers on the previous page.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

The deadline for copy or background material for Volume 64 Number 2 (Issue 254) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **13th MAY 2020**. Material not meeting this deadline may be retained for possible use in a following issue. The preferred method is via E-MAIL to atholjax@adam.com.au as an attachment or on a memory stick or CD, in Word *.doc(x) or *.rtf files. Of course other forms of communication will still be gratefully accepted. Photographs are preferred to be in colour as separate files and note in the article where to be inserted. (*.jpg format under 500Kb unless for the cover).

The views expressed in this publication are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc., its Committee or the Editor.



PRESIDENTS SPOT

This is my latest Ex-Prez Spot but rumor has it that I will lose my 'Ex' status by the time this CEGSA News is released to the waiting hordes. However, the AGM may yet produce 5 or 6 highly competitive candidates for the position and lead to a series of vigorous and increasing desperate Primaries where each hopeful pours in millions of dollars to convince a polarised and anti-establishment electorate. Nightly press interviews, leaked scandals, factions at each other's throats, a declining economy – yes, dear reader, you thought that the race for CEGSA President was gentle affair decided politely over tea and bikkies at a graceful AGM soiree in some generous peoples' palatial villa. Ironically, I couldn't make it to the AGM and thought I was safe from all this but I return to find that I have apparently been handed the cloak of sable and the sceptre for another year. That commits me to more 'Prez Spots' and you to having to read them. Happy 2020!

Far more seriously, the fires that have swept karst areas in several States have been devastating. In this CEGSA News issue is a compilation of contributions about our own Kelly Hill Caves. In that fire, the buildings were destroyed and all their map cabinet maps and historical records. CEGSA sees that an important contribution can be made when the time is right to provide replacement material from our own records to help rebuild the cave displays at the centre. We are still discussing what other forms of assistance and support we can provide. You may have also see the recent Adelaide Advertiser article where our own Terry Reardon and his partner Joan Gibbs suffered fires across their Adelaide Hills property but the house was saved – Jill is now concentrating on saving wildlife and revegetating their block to that purpose. CEGSA offers our great sympathies to you both and please let us know if you would like a cavers' working bee up there some time. In the next CEGSA News will be a several articles about impacts on bat populations, including loss of tree habitat and insect populations for their food supply, and heat impact on flying foxes in our parks. Nature has been tough this summer and now has dumped floods in Queensland. Some people wonder at the contrast of it all but we tend to forget that we live in an entire continent with weather systems quite contrasting from north to south and from west to east.

Lastly, the SA Speleo Council has had several meetings/email exchanges about preparations for next year's ASF Conference in Ceduna at Easter. There are many exciting ideas and I am so impressed at the keenness, imagination and energy of the 20 or so SA cavers who make up the organising committee and its subcommittees. Two interstaters even joined our recent meeting by visual link-up. I'm not letting any secrets out at this stage but all looks really promising for a conference with very different themes to previous ones and of course our focus on the great and mighty Nullarbor!

Cheers to all from Ian Lewis.

%%%%%%%%%

2019 AWARDS

Stirrer's Spoon

To **Steve Milner**, for causing a stir – but not of the controversial or frivolous style! In this case it is awarded because of Steve's special role in two areas – 1) developing a new area of cave exploration – the Nullarbor Cliff edges themselves with spectacular results and 2) for his considerate and empathic liaising with the Mirning people of the Nullarbor. CEGSA has not had such connections before and Steve's contact and relationships with the Mirning Native Title Holders has an important ripple effect on cavers' relations with the Nullarbor custodians going forward.

Mundrabilla Marble

To **Ken Smith**, for taking modern communication technology to the next level (down, not up!).

TRIP REPORTS

Corra Lynn Cave on 28th May, 20th and 28th August 2019

These three trips were held for students from Mercedes College. There were 27, 20, and 15 students appropriately.

Other participants required a *Working with Children* certificate. They were:

Mercedes College teachers Steve Wasilewski (1-2), Lachlan Jones (1, 3), Tuscany Buckle (2, 3), Billy Allotey (3).

CEGSA Trip Leaders Graham Pilkington (1-3), Michael Woodward (1-3), Peter Kraehenbuehl (1-2) Neville Skinner (2-3).

CEGSA helpers Damien Pilkington (1, 3), Mark Sellars (1).

FUSSI helper Dee Trewartha (2).

On each trip we had 3 or 4 teams traverse the cave; the path being chosen by the Trip Leader but picked so that there would be no clashes nor delays at restrictions, climbs or other slow spots.

All students ended up enjoying their experience even though some were reluctant to start and others glad to exit. Most discovered how unfit they were and how easy it was to accumulate bruises.

Graham Pilkington

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

Nullarbor, 1-18 November 2019

Participants: CEGSA: Graham Pilkington, Neville Skinner, and Mark Sefton (from the 10th)
SUSS: Alan and Megan Pryke
HCG: Ian Lutherborrow and Josh Small

Neville and I arrived just before Ian and Josh at the Webbs Cave campsite on the second. A relaxing end of day pulling residual horehound – with no significant rain for a couple of years, no new seedlings had appeared.

Next day started with a tour of the NE section of the cave. After lunch and the arrival of Alan and Megan, all but I visited the Arboretum. The day was completed by completing the survey of the lower-level tunnels off the bottom of the northern entrance.

On the 4th, we travelled out to Old Homestead Cave. With only a short trip possible after arrival, the north cave *Well* was rigged and a survey made from the top of the well towards *Frigidair* to replace the “quick and dirty” compass and tape survey of 1985 with a DistoX version.

The prime aim of this trip was to survey the *Rift Series* from the south end of the *Spring Series* to *Africa*. Alan, Megan, and Josh started their survey by tying to the DistoX survey that terminated at the south end of *Africa*. After only a few metres, they were off for 120m west down a previously unknown tunnel. Their day finished in the complex just north of the *Great White Bite*. Neville, Ian, and I started surveying the lower tunnels southwest of *Henry Moore Chamber*. Next day both teams continued in their allocated area. *Spiders Dawn* was completed with some new discoveries and the west half of the *Rift* mapped. The lower-levels were not finished but the passages at the east end of the *Rift* were mapped leaving about 80m of the *Rift* still to complete.

For the final day at OHC, Alan and Megan showed all but me what the large walking *North Cave* was like as a change from the mostly crawling *Spring Series* survey trips. They went out to RDFND and also toured the *Vengeance Series* to see the “pottery” and pretties.

The stay at OHC was short so that we could spend more time in the exiting leads in Hurricane Hole and Thampanna Cave that we had had to abandon when time ran out in April. Camp was set up as usual southeast corner of the Thampanna Cave “enclosure”. Camels have demolished the protective fence and the WA government has allocated no money to keep the fence in good repair. I was informed, after the trip, by the WA Dept of Parks and Wildlife, that responsibility for upkeep was in limbo because the WA government had excised the four caves from the Mundrabilla lease (which moved them into vacant crown land status) but have not yet dedicated the land as reserves or parks. I decided that to keep damage to a minimum, that only 3 cavers at a time should traverse the Hurricane Hole *Storm* section. Alan, Josh and Neville got the privilege this day and continued the survey from the east end of the *Storm* into the unknown.

Next day was Alan, Josh, and Megan's turn for the Hurricane Hole survey. They completed all but a few very difficult rockpile digs. Ian and Neville enjoyed the first part of HH. Because of the loose nature of the dug entrance, it's policy to always have someone on the surface just in case it collapses. Beyond the *Storm*, the cave loops on itself.

As an end to the HH saga, a final day was spent by Alan and Megan to do some photography and a small amount of tidy-up survey. Total passage length of HH is close to 1 km. Ian and Neville rigged Thampanna and explored. Mark arrived in the afternoon.

Now the hard work could start! Alan, Megan, Josh, and Neville surveyed the area at the start of *Seeing Red*, finding a second level above the known passage. Graham and Ian spent some time discussing OzKarst data and use before Graham and Mark started a resurvey of the entrance rockpile series. Three surveys had already been done of this. One just a traverse but made with a tripod-mounted survey compass. The other two were independently made using hand compass and tape down the east and west walls, meeting outside the entrance to the *Tube* – there was a 10m miss-closure making wall alignment very questionable especially when we did not know where the blunder was. Over the next few days, Graham and Mark completed the survey from the cave entrance down to the *Tube* entrance and determined that the west wall survey was excellent and the east wall survey was poor. The new survey also mapped interior detail completely lacking from the previous surveys. A small network of tunnels was found below the boulders forming the floor of the main passage.

On the 12th, Ian and Josh left on their 3-day journey home. Alan, Megan, and Neville continued the *Seeing Red* survey for one more day.

For the next five days, Alan, Megan, and Neville explored and surveyed down the very windy hole at the start of the *Cryptography* passage adding over a kilometre of new chambers and passages. A link was found to the *Gypsum Chamber* south of the *Muddle* noted by Ken Boland and Peter Ackroyd in 1999. The east-most of these new passages appear to lie beneath the *Jungle* in *Cryptography*.

Graham and Mark surveyed from the top of the slope down to the *Plughole* along the main passage to the south. This passage had never been surveyed, only sketched from memory. The sketch turned out to be reasonably accurate except that the passage gradually swung west. A squeeze noted on the sketch had to be dug out to allow a now larger sketcher to pass. Just before the "end" chamber a corkscrew up through rock has to be negotiated. A strong enticing breeze in a going but small tunnel was at the south end of the chamber but time ran out before it could be explored. This tunnel lies close to a tunnel found by the others and if joined might provide access to the new area for cavers such as me who are currently too large to get past 3 or 4 tight bits on the access route.

Mark left for Adelaide on the 17th and Graham checked out the surface above HH locating a few rockholes including N-1316. The end loop of HH is reflected on the surface as an "embayment" in a ridgeline.

The rest of us left for home on the 18th taking 2 or 3 days to do it.

Graham Pilkington

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

Corra Lynn Cave, 11th January 2020

Participants: Graham, Charni, and Ellie Pilkington, Jamie Schmidt, and Ashley (Flash) Gordon.

A fun trip while my family was over from Melbourne. Flash joined up so that he could attend. He's retired as a STAR Force underwater recovery diver and was most welcome because Charni had hip problems making caving difficult for her. He lives close by and remembered his training days decades ago and wanted to revisit.

The first trip in did the usual twisty loops via *Drumstone* through *Grand Central*, *Kitchen*, *Southern Cross*, *Dick's Extension*, *Crystal Maze*, *Bushwalkers*, and *Ramshorns Crevasse*.

Ashley then left and Charni stayed out for the second trip via the *Rope Crevasse* to *Bushwalkers* and *Octopus Chambers*. I can still get through the *Gunbarrel* but it's slow going!

Graham Pilkington

Past Trips from General Meetings

November 2019

- *Grant Gartrell* went to Naracoorte for the World Heritage Festival. Didn't do the fun run. Festival was very good.
- *Ken Smith* Cocklebiddy with several Australians of the Year. Did some filming for a documentary. Used the CaveLink in ToadHall. Clare was able to chat to Harry in Toad Hall from Adelaide. Also did some filming in Abrakurrie. Also visited Encompassing Cave on Mundrabilla. Interesting cave dug out many years ago, with an interesting damp environment.
- *Peter Kraehenbuehl* went to Mt Gambier into Englebrecht East Cave. Visited the dry section after the sump, and seemed to see more of it then he remembered. Was the water level down? Pegs were found at least 2m up from the existing water level.
- *Graham Pilkington* described a visit to the Nullarbor. Webbs Cave - undertook further survey. Old Homestead added more passage to an already large cave. Hard to access the areas that still need to be surveyed. Visited Hurricane Hole (near Thampana), more surveying in a lead found on a previous trip. Added almost a kilometre to the cave. Main target of the trip was Thampanna Cave. Started continuing the survey on Seeing Red and Entrance surveys. Lots of breathing coming out of passages near the Cryptography area. Plenty of tight sections that some of the group couldn't get through. After working their way through the small sections it eventually opened up. 1.5km of cave was added, with plenty of scope for much more. Also found connection back to the original section of the cave. Next trip in April 2020.

December 2019

No Meeting

January 2020

- Graham Pilkington led a beginner's trip to Corra Lynn Cave on the 11th January. A local joined up for the day.
- Pam Payne described a \$300 Adventure Tour in New Zealand that included a 27m abseil, caving, and white-water rafting.

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES become due on January 1st. To ensure continuity of membership and privileges (particularly insurance) please pay before March 31st.

Joining fee applies to renewal after March 31st.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2020 YEAR

Full Membership	\$ 45.00
Full Country Membership	39.00
Associate Membership	37.00
Long Term Associate	45.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00
Joining Fee (N/A to 3mth Intro)	12.00
Discount for Country Membership	6.00
Print Form CEGSA News	25.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR 2020 YEAR

Single	\$ 68.00
Family	119.00
3 Month Introductory	20.00
Journal Subscription	25.00

2020 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$45.00	\$ 68.00	\$113.00
Full Country Membership	39.00	68.00	107.00
Associate Membership	37.00	68.00	105.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00

Variation for Family Membership

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member	\$90.00	\$119.00	\$209.00
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member	\$82.00	\$119.00	\$201.00
1 st Assoc Member + 2 nd Assoc Member	\$74.00	\$119.00	\$192.00

Discount for Country Membership applies for Family Memberships.

Please make sure your payment of fees includes CEGSA and ASF, if applicable.

Membership Fees can be paid direct into CEGSA Account BSB 105-900 Account No 950661040 and reference with your Name. CEGSA Fees or Membership Number.

Graham Pilkington. Membership Officer.

Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders

Name	Caving Leader level
Marie Choi	Horizontal and Laddering
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Grant Gartrell	Co-ordinator
Paul Harper	Horizontal and Laddering
Richard Harris	Horizontal
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Kraehenbuehl	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Ian Lewis	Horizontal and Laddering
George MacLucas	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
June MacLucas	Horizontal
Steve Milner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Tim Payne	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Graham Pilkington	Horizontal and Laddering
Mark Sefton	Horizontal and Laddering
Neville Skinner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Matt Smith	Horizontal and Laddering
Tom Szabo	Horizontal and Laddering
Michael Woodward	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical

All the above named are also CEGSA Trip Coordinators.

Members may query the classification of any Trip Leader at any time with the committee.

It is a requirement that each trip be organised by an approved Trip Coordinator to be classed as an official CEGSA trip. It is also a requirement that dependent party trips be led by an approved Trip Leader at the appropriate skill level for the cave being entered. Trip Leaders are expected to maintain their First Aid training.

%%%%%%%%%

Annual General Meeting Report

The Annual General Meeting was held at 143 Tyeka Drive, One Tree Hill, SA on Saturday 15th Feb. 2019. There were two awards presented for 2019.

The Annual Report was presented and accepted, followed by the election of officers and committee. The results of the election were as follows:

President: Ian Lewis.
 Secretary: Matt Smith.
 Committee Members: Pam Payne, Mark Sefton, Neville Skinner, and Heather Siebert.

The committee has decided that CEGSA NEWS will only be available in digital form from now on.

The meeting was preceded by a social gathering and BBQ meal.

Athol Jackson

%%%%%%%%%

Extracted Items of South Australian Interest - ASF Annual Report 2019

Award of Distinction for Technical Dive Innovation, Cave Exploration & Cave Rescue

Dr Richard Harris: For technical diving innovation involving mixed gases and exploration to new depths in challenging caves in Australia, Thailand (Song Hong Cave), China (Daxing Spring) and in New Zealand's Pearse Resurgence where dive depths are reaching physiological limits at -229 metres. This is coupled with significant leadership in sump rescue training and recovery dives in Tank Cave, South Australia and in particular, his contribution to the international cave rescue operation conducted in the Tham Luang Cave in Northern Thailand in 2018. The actual rescue relied on his medical, leadership and exceptional diving skills.

Certificate of Merit – VSA Nullarbor Expeditions support group

For long-term participation in the VSA Nullarbor expeditions that have resulted in the discovery and subsequent documentation of over 3000 new features - Ken Boland, Daryl Carr, Ian Curtis, Margaret James, Greg Leeder, Denis Marsh, Henry Shannon, John Taylor, Nicholas White and Susan White.

Cave Diving Commission Report last quarter 2019: Convenors: Tim Payne and Peter Kraehenbuehl (CEGSA and CDAA)

The work of the Commission has involved assessing members to the ASF CDG, and liaising with ASF Vice President Janine McKinnon regarding the review of the ASF Cave Diving code of practice. Another matter arose during this time regarding what happens if members who are also CDAA members make alleged breaches of CDAA protocols. We have not had such issues for several years, but it will need further discussion between the Commission and the ASF Executive as to how such instances are best dealt with in the future. We have sought information from the CDAA and will report further as we able to. Futures issues have also been discussed with Janine, including how the ASF website can support the work of the Commission. During 2019 the Sport and Recreation Industry Reference Committee removed the cave diving competencies from the Sport and Recreation training package, due to a lack of use by RTOs around Australia. We wrote those competencies so the training by differing agencies can be compared, and we currently use them to assess suitability of divers to be members of the CDG. These competencies amongst other documents should now be available via the ASF website. We will pursue this further into 2020.

Cave and Karst Numbering: Convenor: Peter Dykes

During the past 12 months the Commission has been working on the following matters:

OzKarst: During 2019 Graham Pilkington and Peter Dykes have continued to work on OzKarst: developing and refining both the software and its applications to karst documentation. The number of people using OzKarst continues to expand with ASF members in WA, SA, NSW and Vic using OzKarst. At the Devonport conference Peter presented a paper titled "Blueprint for a National Cave & Karst Database for the 2020s" which the ASF Executive has acted upon ... it is now time to convene a meeting of all the State Cave and Karst Numbering Coordinators to further advance the concept of a national karst database.

The ASF Karst Conservation Fund: Nicholas White

Completed Projects: Health Survey of Bent-Wing Bats, PhD project of Peter Holz, University of Melbourne. This project studied both the southern bent-wing bat (*Miniopterus orianae bassanii*) of Western Victoria and south eastern South Australia as well as the eastern bent-wing bat (*M. orianae oceanensis*) of Eastern Victoria. This project has been completed. Significantly, no evidence was found of the White Nose Syndrome fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*) or of the Bat lyssavirus (rabies related) or other disease agents which might have contributed to the population declines of these bats in Victoria and South Australia. A number of publications came out of the project. These will be available on the ASF website.

South Australian Speleological Council: Representative: Matt Smith

Members: CEGSA, FUSSI, Scouts Caving Group: The SA Speleological Council met twice in 2019 and discussed other topics of importance via email correspondence over the course of the year. The focus for the council in 2019 has been the 2021 ASF Conference in Ceduna as well as increased preparedness for cave rescue. The council ran three events during the year – a talk by Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris on the Thai Cave rescue which raised over \$500 for Operation Flinders (male youths at risk), a Cave Search & rescue training weekend at Mairs Cave in the Flinders Ranges run by members of the NSW Cave Rescue Team and hosted the National Cave rescue Workshop. In 2020 we hope to continue to work with local stakeholders to improve access to a range of cave regions in South Australia, support the committee formed to plan and run the 2021 ASF Conference and enable a newly-formed SA Cave Rescue team to develop a framework for communication and training of local cave rescuers.

Commission Reports Australian Cave Rescue: Convenor: Brian Evans

Grant Requests: The ACRC provided travel subsidies for twelve participants plus myself to attend the National Rescue Workshop in Adelaide. SA and WA are in the process of developing grant requests for some rescue equipment. At this date, their applications have not been finalised.

National Cave Rescue Workshop 21-22 September in Adelaide: Very successful! Much goodwill was brought by participants. There are several reports about it that you'll be seeing, but highlights were learning about the Thai rescue from Craig and Harry, forming links and learning about how CaveSAR NZ operates, and considering how, as a nation, we could support a difficult cave rescue in northern Australia.

Expedition Equipment Rental Scheme: ASF members can now borrow equipment to support safety on expeditions. A stretcher and satphone can be picked up from Adelaide (thanks to FUSSI) and taken north or west, or wherever, and, in Perth, a stretcher, satphone and AED are available. It's also possible to get the equipment freighted to somewhere more suitable for your team.

The Australian Cave Cricket Poem - Australian Raphidophoridae: written by Sil Iannello (VSA)

I'm a very special critter you know, and quite ancient too. I date back in time, to Gondwanaland.
 Even without wings, I got from place to place, until those land bridges closed.
 Apart from a few relatives in far north Queensland, we don't talk about them.
 I'm confined to the southern & south east of the land. I'm a little like you, I prefer caves too.
 In fact, they're my home, larva, granite, limestone, heck even sandstones.
 Which all you southerners know. You may have passed me on the way in.
 I'm brown, sparsely hairy, with long and slender drumstick golden spotted legs.
 My wife who can be bigger than me, may get in your way watch your step!
 She carries my future ME's. She'll bury these eggs in the substrates that you see, so take it easy and let her be. I don't bite, and I certainly can't chirp, like my ancient acoustic allies do.
 But I give a mighty fright. You'll see me jump at you from a height, Get out of the way!
 I could be endangered or endemic you see. That's something very special about me.
 We're often fought about by you, called troglaphiles or troglloxenes.
 There doesn't need to be a fuss, it's all the same to us.
 We just like to keep cool and come out at night to feed Deep in the forest we can be seen munching on leaves, but our favourite piece of dinner is another critter if it happens to be.
 After this, it's back in the cave it seems, where we can be found in large clusters making a scene.
 This is where we mingle and meet with our relatives from June-Florentine.
 See, off the mainland we rule in large numbers from the north to the sea.
 I think that's just enough about me, but, we'd like to thank Entomologist Aola Richardee.
 I'll leave it at that, but please respect and be kind to me –
 I'm the very special 2020 Australian Cave Animal of the Year you see.

(Reprinted from eSpeleo December 2019, with acknowledgements)

%%%%%%%%%

COUPLE DEVASTATED AT LOSS OF WILDLIFE

Cudlee Creek residents Terry Reardon and Joan Gibbs used to wake up to the sight of lush trees and rich wildlife surrounding them every day.

But, now, bloatflies feast on dead koalas scattered across the blackened earth.

A short distance away from their home, a young kangaroo's burnt carcass can be seen trapped on a fence.

The couple have lived at the bottom of a valley just off Fox Creek Rd for 30 years and are devastated at the loss of wildlife.

Their now-black 70-acre property is just one patch of land that shows the true [environmental destruction](#) of the bushfire that burned three Fridays ago.

"It's really depressing, we walked around and, apart from seeing dead wildlife, a lot of big old trees have gone," Mr Reardon said.

Ms Gibbs said blue fairy wrens would enjoy the bracken and blackberry weeds scattered around their plot of land, but now "all the habitat is gone".

"The skin of the earth has been singed," she said.

"If you drive from here to Lobethal on the back roads, it's just like this: nothing."

The couple successfully defended their home as the flames slowly burned around them on that fateful Friday, knowing they could retreat in their fireproof bunker if they got in trouble.

They ache for those who lost their homes and said they were lucky that the flames happened to be slow in their location.

Wildlife expert Professor Chris Daniels said it will take "decades" for the environment to be fully restored after the [Cudlee Creek fire](#), but initial signs of recovery could be seen as early as next month in some areas.

"It's utterly, utterly devastating and large numbers of animals and plants have been destroyed but with ... work and support from community and the government, we can recover from this," he said.

Professor Daniels said every affected area in the Adelaide Hills will have different levels of environmental destruction and it will be a long process to analyse the true cost.

"In areas where the fire was extremely hot, the trees may have been killed and that can be a disaster for the ecosystem because the trees are incredibly important," he said



Terry Reardon and Joan Gibbs' property provides just a snapshot of the wider environmental impact. Picture: Brad Fleet.



The couple stayed and defended their home against the odds. Picture: Brad Fleet

Man dies after falling about 30 metres into Cave Gardens sinkhole in Mount Gambier

ABC South East SA by Camron Slessor and Isadora Bogle 10 Feb 2020



Photo: The Cave Gardens sinkhole is a popular tourist attraction in Mount Gambier. (ABC News)

obviously a roping mechanism and a roping set-up that was used to winch the male out of the cave."

He said it was certainly a concerning incident at one of the region's top tourist attractions. "It's one of the focal points of the Limestone Coast; it certainly is a tragedy. It certainly is a unique location for an event of this type to



Photo: Mount Gambier Mayor Lynette Martin said the safety of the sinkhole would be reviewed if needed.

at one of our premier tourist attractions right in the heart of the city," she said. "It's been a safe environment for many, many years, enjoyed by thousands of people. I really would like to pass on my condolences to the victim's family and friends on their tragic loss."

She said the council had many policies and regulations in place to manage public safety and the Cave Gardens sinkhole would be reviewed if needed. "Council certainly has many policies and regulations under which we have to operate, and they are all reviewed frequently and as they are required to be," she said. "Council certainly looks after their public

spaces in the interest of public safety and we will continue to do so. I believe this particular

Emergency services and police went to the Cave Gardens sinkhole in Mount Gambier just before midnight on Saturday after receiving reports a man had fallen in. Police say a 20-year-old man from Lewiston died at the scene. Limestone Coast LSA inspector Campbell Hill on Saturday morning said police suspected the man fell about 30 metres to the base of the sinkhole. He said the body was retrieved from the sinkhole just after 3am on Sunday. "It's around about a 30-metre drop to the base of the cave ... so it did pose quite an issue," he said. "It's quite a complex environment to have to work within." We used one of the fire appliances and their aerial crane and through that it was



Photo: The Cave Gardens sinkhole is in the centre of Mount Gambier. (ABC News: Isadora Bogle)

occur, it's certainly not one that we've experienced in recent times, certainly to this severity.

Mount Gambier Mayor Lynette Martin said she was saddened by the news and shared her condolences with those impacted by the death. "Like me, the community will be very saddened to think that such a tragic event could happen



Photo: Flowers were left at the site on Sunday. (ABC News: Isadora Bogle)

case now is a matter for the coroner and we will wait for the outcome of his findings and go from there."

Police said there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the man's death, however, any witnesses who had not yet spoken to police have been asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. "We would certainly be interested to speak with them and help us gather the fuller picture of what occurred," Inspector Hill said.

The Cave Gardens sinkhole is one of the top tourist attractions in the Mount Gambier region, with the council ranking it in its top 10 places to visit. The City of Mount Gambier website states Cave Gardens is a state heritage area in the centre of Mount Gambier. It is described as an historic garden which flows deep into a sinkhole which features several viewing platforms for visitors. The incident comes following a separate incident where a 21-year-old man was seriously injured after he fell about 10 metres into the Cave Gardens sinkhole in 2005. Terry Menadue escaped with a broken arm and leg and facial injuries after losing his footing when he jumped a fence to gain a closer look at the sinkhole.

%%%%%%%%%

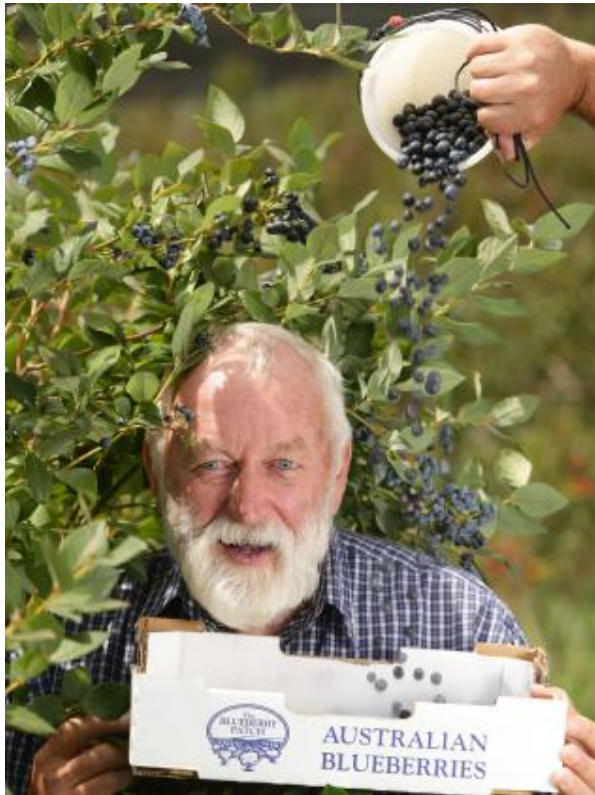
Naracoorte Caves: Scientists share their story of discovering huge megafauna fossil deposit, 50 years after their find

Michelle Etheridge, Sunday Mail (SA)

November 16, 2019 7:00pm

After scrambling into a previously undiscovered part of Naracoorte's cave system, it took Professor Rod Wells a few moments to recognise the hidden treasures lying at his feet.

It was August 3, 1969, and Prof Wells and his friend and fellow caver Grant Gartrell had been granted entry into Victoria Cave, which had been closed to the public for years.



Dr Grant Gartrell, who now runs The Blueberry Patch in Mt Compass. Picture: Tait Schmaal.

"On the floor, there were these shapes covered in dust and they had this serrated edge to them," he says.

"I thought, that's odd, and then the penny dropped – I was looking at a tooth row."

That day the pair discovered the fossils of five species of extinct megafauna, which roamed the land hundreds of thousands of years ago.

They included an animal known as the marsupial lion, a pygmy hippopotamus-like marsupial and giant kangaroos.

The Limestone Coast will next weekend celebrate the discovery's 50-year anniversary.

December also marks 25 years since the Naracoorte Caves were World Heritage listed.

These days, the cave is known as one of the world's 10 greatest fossil sites.

"I knew what we discovered was of great significance," Prof Wells says of the initial moments of the find.

"There were bones all over the ground and I thought, my god, if what we're seeing on the surface is as rich when we dig down, we've found a staggering deposit of bones of the extinct Australian marsupials."

Wells, now an Emeritus Professor at Flinders University, and Dr Gartrell were both members of the Cave Exploration

Group of SA, and had sought permission to enter Victoria Cave in the hope of finding fossils.

Dr Gartrell noticed air movement, as proven by the flame in their lamp flickering, suggesting there was another cave area beyond the rock in front of him.

After some digging and scrambling, the pair broke into the large chamber where they found the megafauna fossils.

"That's pretty exciting stuff because you're going where no human being has ever trodden before," Prof Wells says. The Flagstaff Hill man, 78, and Dr Gartrell, 77, will return to Naracoorte next weekend to celebrate the anniversary of the discovery, at Mega Fest.

"For me, Naracoorte is a place of mystery still even though we know a lot more than we did when we started," says Dr Gartrell, who now runs a blueberry farm at Mt Compass.

"I'm sure there's more secrets there to be discovered."

He labelled the find a "golden opportunity" to bring a new educational form of tourism to the South East.

"It's told us so much about our past and it continues to be an eye-opener."

Victoria Cave preserved the fossils of 120 vertebrate species, including about 35 megafauna species.

Flinders Professor Gavin Prideaux – a former student of Prof Wells – heads up the university's new palaeontology degree, and says the Naracoorte Caves fossils date back 500,000 years.

"That discovery lifted our understanding to another level," Prof Prideaux says.

"Up until then, most of the megafauna animals were known from scrappy bits and pieces that had been scattered around by animals.

"Suddenly, in one site, you had complete remains found together, all in one place."

Mega Fest, on Sunday, November 24, features a range of activities including fossil and cave exploring with Prof Wells and Dr Gartrell, a tour with a palaeontologist, a trail run, musical performances, a farmers' and makers' market and megafauna face painting.

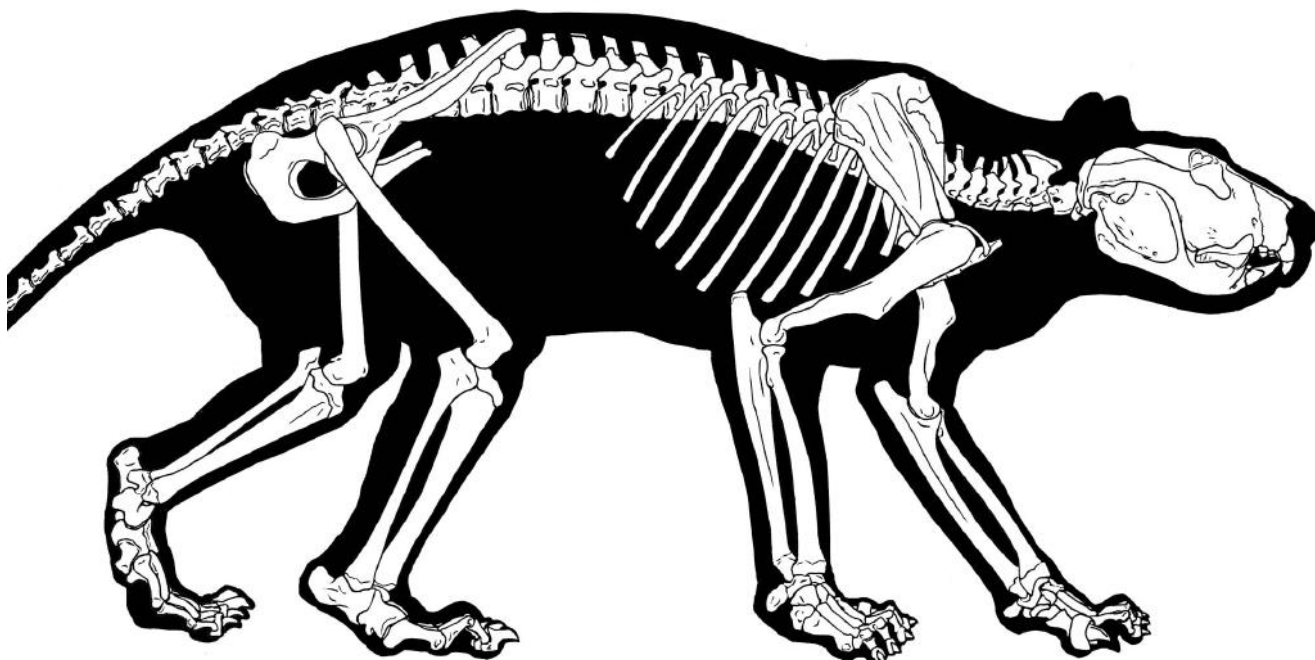
For more information, visit megafest.com.au. michelle.etheridge@news.com.au



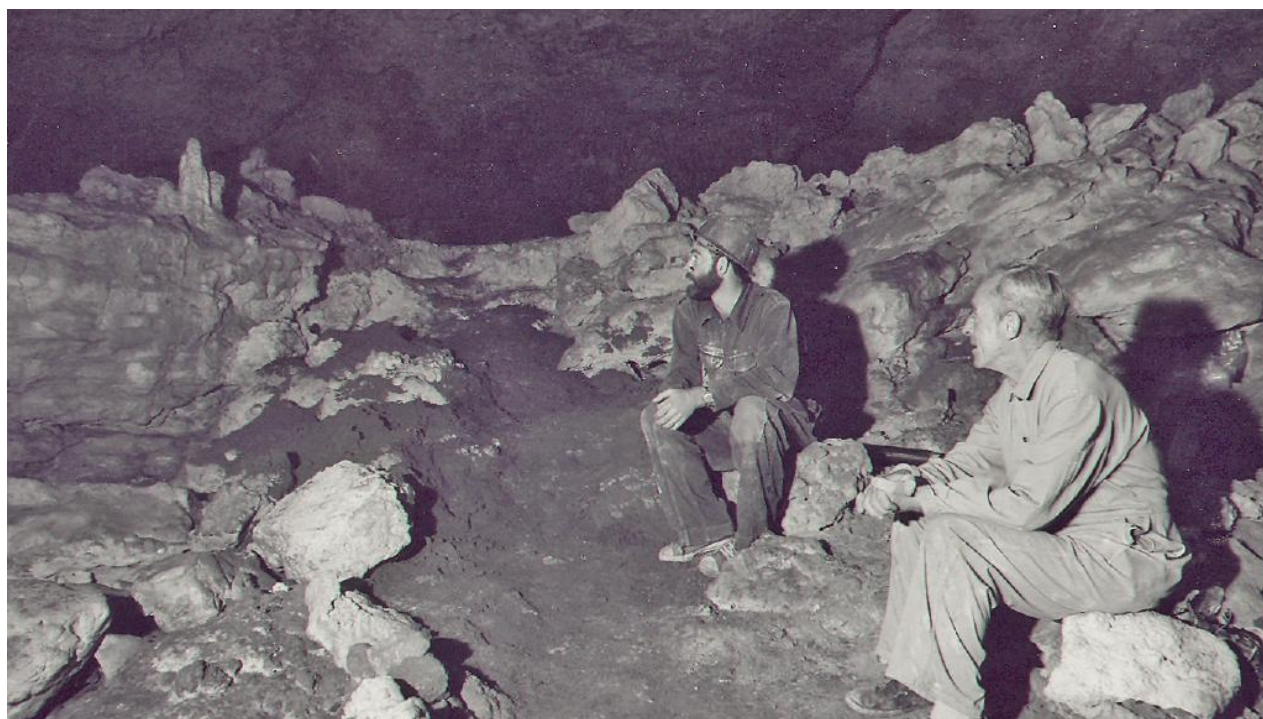
A skeleton of a Marsupial Lion (Thylacoleo carnifex) in the Victoria Fossil Cave, Naracoorte Caves National Park.



Alice Wells and Rod Wells taking one of many core samples in the Naracoorte Caves. during 1969.



The prehistoric marsupial lion (*Thylacoleo carnifex*) resembles a larger version of a Tasmanian devil in biology and behaviour.



Rod Wells and Ern Maddock, director of National Pleasure Resorts, at Naracoorte, after the megafauna discovery in August 1969. Picture: Supplied



A diprotodon sculpture at the Naracoorte Caves.

%%%%%%%%%

KI fires at Kelly Hill Caves

What a terrible summer it has been for Australian bushfires. Cave areas in several States have been hit badly – Kelly Hill, Jenolan, Buchan and others. At our January CEGSA General Meeting we considered in open discussion about various actions and measures that we could offer to assist rehabilitation and recovery of our friends and the cave/karst area at Kelly Hill on Kangaroo Island (red circle on satellite image). The fires were vast and covered the western half of the island.

Our Grant Gartrell has been a devotee of KI karst since it was first deposited in the Pleistocene. He emailed several of us with a summary of the situation there and several broader thoughts. Many thanks Grant for allowing CEGSA News to share this with our members. I have added a small comment or two where relevant.

Hi Mark and others,

The CFS website shows in fair detail the current extent of the fires, and it looks very much as though it went right through to the coast in the broad vicinity of Cape Bouger, with a few small exceptions close to the Cape itself, east almost to the Stun-Sail Boom mouth and west through Hanson Bay past Southern Ocean Lodge right through past cape de Couedic and up to about Sandy River mouth. The map I have seen shows West Bay Hollow to be unburnt, and north through West Bay and the truly coastal kilometre or so strip up through the Ravine de Casoars and on to the north coast, leaving the Cape Borda light and surrounds intact, but of course much of that area would still be extremely vulnerable to any strong winds from the east freshening up still burning and reasonably inaccessible parts of the Chase. There have been plenty of fires over most of this ground, often started by lightning, many times in the past. The big difference this time has been the extreme heat and extremely dry conditions, attributable to global warming with a 97% probability, which put enough extra energy into the system to make the fires pretty much unstoppable. But get used to it. The maths shows that we can expect the frequency of such extreme weather events to keep doubling every 20.5 years, and with proportionately ever more energetic systems, while we continue to pump ever more CO2 into the atmosphere. The original 1955 Kelly Hill cave map that I saw at Kelly Hill was a dye-line print. I have a similar one myself, and I expect Graham should have one also. *[CEGSA holds the original of that map and displayed it at our January CEGSA General meeting. We will provide a copy to the Kelly Hill when their buildings and displays are replaced. Ian]* Then there are the surveys of the additional discoveries such as Woop Woop. Gary Woodcock & Steve Milner for originals, I guess. I have copies of most of that, but not the survey data itself. Kevin Mott would have extensive surface survey location maps, plus the minor caves to the east on what was Max Flavel's

place. I have only a small sample of that stuff. Then of course there is the additional survey stuff for K11. You were involved in some of that yourself Ian, as was I, and of course I wandered into a fair bit of new stuff in there last time which was not on the map, and which I did not finish checking out as I was on my own, and which has yet to be surveyed. I am advocating a reasonably concerted effort to extend and record Kelly Hill in the foreseeable future, with a view to being able to announce to the world, before too long, some positive news about it, including what an exciting underground world it really is.

[Kevin Mott has supplied the following list of Kelly Hill Cave and karst features which have been in the path of the fireground – thanks for supplying this, Kevin].

Keilira fire							
U136							
U199							
U200							
Total 3 features							
Kangaroo Island Fire							
K001	K043	K077	K104	K116	KRMX01	KRMX38	KRMX43
K002	K044	K078	K105	K117	KRMX02	KRMX42	KRMX44
K003	K045	K079	K106	K118	KRMX05	KRMX13	KRMX47
K004	K046	K080	K107	K119	KRMX06	KRMX15	KRMX48
K007	K050	K081	K110	K120	KRMX07	KRMX16	KRMX49
K011	K051	K082	K112	K121	KRMX08	KRMX18	KRMX50
K012	K053	K083	K113	K122	KRMX09	KRMX19	KRMX64
K013	K054	K084	K114		KRMX10	KRMX19	KRMX69
K014	K056	K086	K115		KRMX11	KRMX20	
K015	K058	K059	K089		KRMX12	KRMX51	
K018	K028	K060	K090		KRMX21	KRMX53	
K019	K029	K061	K091		KRMX22	KRMX53	
K021	K031	K064	K092		KRMX22	KRMX54	
K022	K033	K065	K093		KRMX23	KRMX60	
K023	K034	K066	K094		KRMX25	KRMX63	
K024	K037	K067	K095		KRMX03	KRMX64	
K025	K038	K096	K123		KRMX04	KRMX65	
K030	K069	K097	K124		KRMX30	KRMX26	
K036	K070	K098	K125		KRMX31	KRMX27	
K039	K073	K099	K126		KRMX33	KRMX70	
K040	K074	K101	K127		KRMX35	KRMX71	
K041	K075	K102	K133		KRMX36	KRMX73	
K042	K076	K103	K134		KRMX37	KRMX42	
Total K							
		99					
Total KX							
		54					
Total							
		153					

Of course, we now have GPS locations for many of the features, and as I mentioned to Ian earlier, Nick is already discussing the possibility of a special dispensation for using a drone to augment a surface search through the reduced vegetation in a few months' time to take advantage of this possibly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to locate other karst features. We could be of considerable assistance in such an exercise. I would even still like to locate the blowhole that Ken Heyne found on a ridge well to the southeast of the known system. He said that he first noticed it because the air coming out of it was blowing around vegetation hanging over it, and that it was probably a bit too small for him to access. We did spend some time searching where we thought it might be, but so far to no avail.

The remnants of the shark hook were in a box under Nick's desk, and may not now be retrievable from the ticket office rubble, especially as the building was full of asbestos, but it is too early to tell just yet. We may yet have to resort to 3D printing to resurrect it.

Cheers, Grant

From Nicholas White, Director, ASF Karst Conservation Fund

Numerous cave areas throughout Australia have been severely burnt in recent months. The Karst Conservation Fund directly and through the GoFundMe appeal have raised funds towards documenting and repairing some of the damage.

During consultations with speleologists, academics and ACKMA members it is apparent that an important immediate objective is to capture the bushfire effects on both surface karst and within caves. These effects can be dramatic such as large sediment deposits or remnant wood and charcoal being washed into caves at the first rainfall event through to more subtle effects on cave biota and bats. There is an urgency to evaluate the effects as soon as possible.

To capture the immediate effects of the bushfires on karst, the Fund intends to support its member clubs to assess damage to their caving areas. This support can be for travel expenses, accommodation and the associated costs of assessing damage and changes to karst areas and caves and for the analysis of findings. Each club or individual proposing to initiate a project will need to apply for funding. It may be that longer term karst rehabilitation projects could also be funded but these will need to wait until the initial assessment of damage has been undertaken.

The application form for funding is available on the Karst Conservation Fund website at <https://www.caves.org.au/conservation/karst-conservation-fund>

This notice is to get club members thinking about what projects they could undertake as soon as access to burnt karst areas is possible. Therefore, please think about what projects you or your club can undertake that assess the effects of fire across landscapes you are familiar with. These should be ready to be started as soon as access to burnt areas is permitted. Some general ideas are listed below:

- Surface karst – broad area vegetation loss, soil disturbance
- Cave surrounds – vegetation loss, bare soil areas, effect of rainfall
- Cave effects – sediments, hydrological effects on walls, speleothems, and floors, smoke damage
- Cave animals, bats or invertebrates

Documentation of any damage is an important resource for research and the information needed should reflect changes since the last visit. It will be a funding requirement to provide material and reports which will be centrally collected so that further analysis is possible. An overview report will also be published in Caves Australia. Reports should include if possible, cave maps showing where damage is found, surface maps and photographs (preferably pre and post the fire). More information and cave report proforma will be made available soon.

It is expected that the processing time for project approval will be very prompt. Further detail and information can be provided by emailing me at asf.karstfund.info@gmail.com

Nicholas White



Your Invitation to attend the:
***23rd Cave & Karst Management
Conference***

**Hosted by ACKMA at
Jenolan Caves NSW 3rd – 8th May 2020**

Despite the recent...



Snow,



Fires and



Floods...

**The ACKMA Organising
Committee
for the**

***23rd Cave & Karst
Management Conference***

**is looking forward to receiving
your registration to attend our
conference.**

**A great week of activities and
talks are planned covering a
wide variety of topics including
the impacts of the recent fire and
flood events in the Jenolan
Caves valley.**

**For further information, contact
the conference convenor Scott
Melton at**

**[scott.melton@jenolancaves.org.
au](mailto:scott.melton@jenolancaves.org.au) or**

by phone on (02) 6359 3926.

We hope to see you at Jenolan

Notice of Motion

The following two motions to change the CEGSA Constitution will be put to the March General Meeting at the Royal Society Rooms on Wednesday 25th March, beginning at 7:20 p.m.

Motion 1

That section 9(c) of the CEGSA Constitution be changed FROM:

9(c) Payment of all monies from:

(i) **General Revenue** over a set amount shall be by cheque signed by any two of the following: President Secretary Treasurer.

(ii) **Special Purpose Revenue** over a set amount shall be by cheque signed by any two of the following: President Secretary Treasurer and on approval of the Committee any other specified Committee member and or any one coopted Full member. Names of signatories to be appointed separately for each special account.

TO

9(c) **All expenditure must be approved by Committee.**

Payment of ~~all~~ monies from:

(i) **General Revenue** shall be **conducted as determined by the Committee** by **one or more Committee members for each account.**

(ii) **Special Purpose Revenue** shall be **conducted as determined by the Committee** by **two** of the following: President Secretary Treasurer and on approval of the Committee any other specified Full member. Names of signatories to be appointed separately for each special account.

Reason for the Motion

Currently our Constitution only provides for payment by cheque signed by two authorised persons. Because Committee business is now mainly done on-line, this results in payments being delayed by many months in some cases. Furthermore, cheques are increasingly being phased out for some transactions. The proposed change will allow the Treasurer (or another Committee member in the Treasurer's absence) to make payments by internet banking. Internet banking provides up to date statements that allow transactions to be viewed at a glance. To safeguard CEGSA's assets, CEGSA retains the power to require more than one member to effect transactions for larger accounts that serve as reserves for non-budgeted items.

Motion 2

That section 5(c)(iii) of the CEGSA Constitution be changed FROM

5(c) Duties of Office Bearers:

(iii) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the monies of the Group and shall submit to each Annual General Meeting an Audited Annual Statement and Balance Sheet or when called for any other period.

TO

5(c) Duties of Office Bearers:

(iii) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the monies of the Group and shall submit to each Annual General Meeting an Annual Statement and Balance Sheet or when called for any other period.

AND

That section 9(e) of the CEGSA Constitution be changed FROM:

9(e) An Auditor shall be appointed each year by the Committee to audit the financial record statement and balance sheets of the Group.

TO

9(e) An Auditor **may** be appointed each year by the Committee to audit the financial record statement and balance sheets of the Group **at any time.**

Reason for the Motion

This proposed change allows the Committee the flexibility to arrange an audit of CEGSA's accounts when it sees fit, rather than in time for the AGM – something that has not always been possible to do without incurring unnecessary expense. Currently the time between the end of our financial year (31st December) and the time required for submission of an audited financial report for insertion into the Annual Report is just a four week period during which some members are away from Adelaide caving or on holiday.

Mark Sefton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
26/02/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Sellicks Hill Quarry & Karst	Grant Gartrell
??/03/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
07-09/ 03/19	Adelaide Cup W/E		
25/03/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Bullita Update	Ian Lewis
??/04/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
10/04-13 /04/20	Easter W/E		
22/04/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Ian Lewis
25/04/20	ANZAC Day		
??/05/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
13/05/20	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
27/05/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Ian Lewis
??/06/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
06-08/ 06/20	Queens Birthday W/E		
24/06/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. TBA	Ian Lewis
	Caving	Continuing Fleurieu Peninsula Exploration	Grant Gartrell

****Extra trips will be notified in the Calendar on the Website or at General Meetings****

To be covered by insurance it is mandatory that caving trips involving club members must be registered as CEGSA Trips. To do this, the nature and timing of the trip must be entered in the Calendar of events in CEGSA NEWS, minuted at a General Meeting of Members or entered in the Website Calendar. The member registering such a trip must be an accredited CEGSA Trip Coordinator and must agree to act in this capacity for the trip. There must also be an accredited trip leader with the appropriate skill endorsement to take a dependent party caving.

Also, please ensure that a report of the trip is submitted to the Records Officer and editor in a timely manner.